

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given to the present application. Claims 1-20 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 5, 8-13, 14-17, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Barringer et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,230,306). Claims 1-3 and 5-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Okuda et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,639,322). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claim 4. The Examiner states that the prior art does not teach carbon fiber reinforced conduit in a ceramic-to-metal bond. Thus, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 10, 16 and 19 to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 4. Specifically, Claims 1 and 16 now include a "ceramic matrix composite conduit reinforced with carbon fibers." Likewise, amended Claims 10 and 19 provide a "ceramic matrix composite rocket nozzle" reinforced with carbon fibers. Applicants assert independent Claims 1, 10, 16 and 19 are now patentable and in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barringer et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,230,306). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant notes Claim 18 depends from independent Claim 16. As stated previously, Applicant believes Claim 16 is patentable and in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant believes Claim 18 is also patentable and in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 
Mark D. Elchuk
Reg. No. 33,686

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600
MDE/EKS/cmn